subprominens. *Sternum* anticè subdentatum, posticè trigono- vel lunato-emarginatum : *scuta sterni* flavo nigroque radiata, subsulcata : *gularia* parva, trigona : *humeralia* irregulariter pentagona : *pectoralia* anticè sinuata : *abdominalia* magna, quadrata : *femoralia* quadrata : *analia* rhomboidea, porrecta : *axillaria* exigua : *inguinalia* parva, triangularia.

*Testæ osseæ mensura.*

| | unc. | lin. |
|---|---|---|
| Dorsi longitudo . . . . . | 8 | 6 |
| Latitudo ejusdem . . . . . | 5 | 3 |
| Altitudo . . . . . | 5 | 0 |
| Longitudo sterni . . . . . | 7 | 4 |

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Although specimens of this species have long existed in several of the Continental museums, as is proved by the figures of Seba and of Lacépède, as well as the descriptions of the latter author and of Daudin, it had, until of late, been universally confounded with *Testudo geometrica*. The description of Lacépède, purporting to refer to the latter species, is, in fact, as well as his figure, taken from a specimen of *T. actinodes*, as he assigns to it only twenty-three marginal plates; a character which belongs essentially to the present species, whereas *T. geometrica* has always twenty-four. It is also the first variety of *geometrica* of Daudin. In the very young state it has received from Schœpff the name of *T. elegans*, and that of *T. stellata* from Schweigger; and Mr. Gray has adopted the latter name. In the adult state it was first described by myself in the Zoological Journal, and figured in the Supplementary Plates of that work.

In its general appearance and the character of its markings, it certainly bears a great resemblance to the species with which it has been so often confounded; there are, however, many constant and strongly marked differences. The head is very similar both in form and colour, and so are the neck and limbs; but the anterior feet, in *T. actinodes*, are furnished with a greater number of those imbricated scales, which protect the anterior part of them in both species; the tail also is somewhat longer, and the thighs are furnished with about three or four



strong conical scales on each side. The general form of the shell is much less globose: the margin is not in the least degree revolute in any part; in *geometrica* it is so throughout the whole circumference: the nuchal plate, which is always present in the other species, is here invariably wanting: the posterior margin is much more deeply indented, and the caudal plate, instead of being incurved under the marginal outline of the shell, as in *geometrica*, is either perpendicular, or inclined backwards. The areolæ, as may be concluded from the comparative size of the two animals, are much larger in *actinodes*, and, instead of being depressed, are either quite plane or slightly elevated. There is also considerable diversity in the character of the yellow radiations of the plates. In *geometrica* they are linear; in *actinodes* they become much wider towards the circumference. The ground colour of the sternum in the present species is a light yellow, with very distinct black radiations, which also widen towards the circumference, as the yellow rays do on the dorsal plates. In *geometrica* the sternum is clouded with yellow and light brown, and the darker radiations are only here and there observable towards the margin of the plates.

In young specimens the colours are brighter, the markings more distinct, and the plates, instead of being much elevated, as in the adult, are almost flat.

I have had several individuals of this species living, but have not succeeded in keeping them alive over the winter, notwithstanding they had fed freely during the warm weather. The egg is oval, and about the size of a pigeon's.